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MEMORIAL

OF

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

OF THE

CITY OF NEW YORK,

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.



APRIL 24, 1820.

Read, and referred to the Committee of the Whole House, to which is committed
the *Bill laying duties on sales of merchandize at auction.*



WASHINGTON:

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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

The Memorial of the American Society of the City of New York, for the encouragement of Domestic Manufactures, respectfully represents:

That your Memorialists deem it a duty incumbent on them again to address your honorable body on the subjects embraced in their Memorial of the 16th December last.

The excessive and continued importations of foreign manufactures, which is encouraged and supported by the *existing tariff*, the *credit given for the duties*, and *free sales at auction*, have destroyed order and safety in business, discouraged enterprise, suspended labor, and excited the most lively apprehensions for the future peace and welfare of the country.

The facts that have transpired in this market, recently, are too important in their bearing on this subject to pass unnoticed; by statements, carefully made out, it appears, that, in this city alone, about *twelve thousand packages of foreign manufactures* have been sold at auction from the 1st January last to the 15th April inst.; the duties on which are estimated at *one million of dollars*, which sum, by this short process, has now become active capital, loaned by this government to foreign manufacturers and their agents in this country, in aid of such operations, to crush the enterprise and industry of this nation.

The contrast between the policy of this government, and that of all the great states of Europe, on this subject, is appalling to every citizen who reflects upon it. *We admit* a free importation of all the manufactures and products of Europe and India, subject only to a light duty, payable at a distant period. *We admit* foreign adventurers, immediately on landing, to compete with our citizens, in every profession, at their very doors, free from all taxes, and exonerated from all the legal duties imposed on citizens: while they exclude *even our bread stuffs*, except when threatened by famine; and it is equally notorious, that they are making every effort to exclude, also, our *cotton, tobacco, and other great staples*, by encouraging the production of them in their colonies; they impose high import duties, and still higher excise, on all foreign products, which are payable in cash, on delivery of the goods from the ship or public stores, and invariably secure peculiar privileges to *their* subjects over foreigners.

Your Memorialists cannot believe that your honorable body have been duly informed of the deleterious effects arising from the existing system, which is availed of by foreigners, to the utter ruin of all regular business and honest industry. The numerous memorials presented this session for relief; the distresses throughout the country generally; the almost total stagnation of business in all our great cities; speak a language which cannot be misunderstood any longer. The utmost anxiety exists, and is suspended on the deliberations of your honorable body; the nation expects, at your hands, some efficient measures for relief from present embarrassments, and security for future enterprize.

Your Memorialists, therefore, humbly hope, that Congress will not adjourn without acting efficiently on the important bills now pending before your honorable body.

W. FEW, *Vice President.*

PETER H. SCHENCK, }
JOHN E. HYDE, } *Secretaries.*